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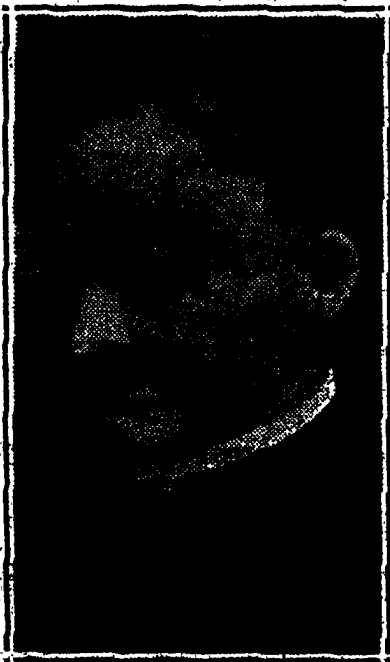
AUTOBIOGRAPHY

REV. PETER STRANG D.D.

REGINA-CANADA

*Rev Robt and Mrs MacMillan
Belleaves Sask*

*with the Compliments
of the author*



REV. PETER STRANG, D.D.
REGINA, CANADA

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AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF REV. PETER STRANG D.D.

Regina--Canada

INTRODUCTION -- Home and Public School

We were born on the tenth day of April, 1856, in a log house on the third concession of the township of Usborne, County of Huron, Ontario.

Most of the land, in this exceedingly rich agricultural district in the western peninsula of the ~~province~~ of Ontario was bought up by farmers who intended clearing off the bush and making homes for themselves and their families.

Our father and mother, John Strang and Janet Dougall settled on this farm in 1852.

Father was fortunate in being able to buy it with twenty acres cleared and on which a log house and stables were erected. We were the third member of the family. We had two older sisters, Margaret and Elizabeth. We had one sister younger, Janet, and then three younger brothers, Henry, John and

James. Mother was a delightfully fine pioneer and was very much beloved as wife and mother and was an ideal Christian.

Father taught us all to "do right."

He was a first-class Scotch-trained stone mason, and with a sufficient amount of good building stone in the district, he erected a very beautiful dwelling house in 1861.

We remember two outstanding events that happened that summer (1) the building of the new house (2) and our starting to school. We spent that first summer in school in the old log school house which was situated on the corner of our farm. The new school was built that same summer at the cross-roads a quarter of a mile north. It was a frame and painted white.

The summer was a very busy one on the farm. Father engaged a first-class carpenter,

Mr. John McMurtry, who came and made his workshop in a fine new barn that had been erected a few years before. There were very few planeing mills in that part of the province in those days so the carpenter made the window frames and door frames and planed the pine lumber for the floors and base boards and the facings for the doors and windows. He spent a good part of the summer with us. We also had a man hired, who stayed with us for ten years. He was father's nephew. He came to us directly from Scotland. He was a son of father's favorite sister Elizabeth. His name was Peter Graham. He was a first-class ploughman and learned to be an excellent axeman. Half the farm was cleared of timber when he came. He helped to clear the rest of the eighty acres of the one hundred that were afterwards cleared.

The twenty acres that were left were partly a very fine sugar bush of maple trees. The rest of the trees were mostly beech, elm and ash. This standing timber served also as a protection from the wind and from which we got firewood for heating the house. A boy of five was chiefly interested in the building of the new house that summer. It was finished before the winter set in and the family lived very happily in it.

Our first teacher was a Mr. A. McCully. During that first summer he taught us to spell cat and rat and bat. We had the good fortune to be in a school district, where the school trustees engaged first-class teachers. Most of them were trained in the Toronto Normal School. It was the only Normal School in the

province at that time. Our second teacher was Mr. W. Griffin. He taught for two years, 1863 and 1864. He did successful work. He afterwards studied medicine and practised his profession. Our third teacher was Mr. J. W. Sparling who taught the school during 1865. He was very popular in the school district. He then completed his University course and later studied Theology in Victoria College, Cobourg. He afterwards preached for several years in the Methodist Church of Canada and was then appointed first principal of Wesley College, Winnipeg. In 1866 he was succeeded by Mr. H. Brown of Exeter. He taught for one year and then studied medicine and practised his profession. My fifth teacher for the next two years was Mr. John B. Rankin. He afterwards graduated in Arts in Tor-

onto University and later practised law in Chatham, Ontario. We began the study of Euclid and Algebra under him. The teachers in the country public schools of Ontario had a difficult task in those days. The attendance during the winter was from fifty to seventy-five pupils and the principal, being alone, had to teach all the classes from primary grades to the fifth-book classes. It is surprising that they were able to keep such good order. The last fifteen minutes before noon were generally spent in mental arithmetic in which the whole school took part. The problems were usually adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing, also square root and cube root. The teacher usually gave the questions with about a dozen operations in each, and as rapidly as the pupils could do them. It was a great joy

to the pupils who could follow as rapidly as the teacher could give them.

The next teacher was Mr. John Houston. He stayed nearly a year. It was under him that we got a clear understanding of Algebra. He afterwards completed his University course in Toronto and devoted his fine ability to High School teaching. Mr. George Moir succeeded him in the fall of 1869 and remained until the close of 1870. We found him a very excellent teacher in all Mathematical subjects. He was also a very successful teacher of History. We made rapid progress in these subjects under him. We thought him quite wonderful in problem work. He was afterwards one of the leading teachers in the public schools of St. Mary's, Perth County, Ontario. Mr. T. W. Blatchford taught No. 1 public school in 1871. We owe him a lot, in teach-

ing us accuracy, and in helping us to become proficient in English Grammar. He taught us that it was necessary to understand the meaning of a passage before we could analyse it. He gave us such an insight into the subject that we never had any serious difficulty afterwards in passing examinations in it. Mr. Foster taught the school in 1872. By that time No. 1 had an assistant and the building was partitioned into two rooms. He was succeeded by Mr. Elias Battie. He was a hard worker and an efficient teacher.

Four of us wrote in December of that year, 1873, in Goderich for third-class certificates, and we all passed--Miss Isabella Logie, Mr. Thos. Case, Mr. Geo. Blatchford and Mr. Peter Strang.

We had the good fortune to be trained by godly parents who taught us to love God and follow Christ. We were taught the Scriptures and the short Catechism. We had able teachers who made us work hard. We had for our classmates a number of bright scholars. We were taught to think rapidly and we attained a fair degree of accuracy. This has been of great value all through life. We attended Church regularly, when a boy, and had the privilege of hearing Rev. John Logie, a very gifted preacher, preach weekly at Warrensville. We thus got a fine start in life.

This is a somewhat lengthy story in which we have given an account of our home life and our public school days.

CHAPTER 11

Teaching School and Attendance of Hamilton Collegiate and Toronto University.

We secured a school six miles from home. It was known as No. 10 Hay. We taught there for two years, 1874 and 1875. We were only seventeen years of age when we began. It was too advanced a school for a beginner. We had a lot of clever pupils. However we did our best and made a success of our work.

Our accommodation for the first year was very poor. It was an old log building and very much over-crowded in the winter time. All the junior pupils sat in the centre of the room on movable forms without any desks and the senior pupils sat on seats without any backs to them. They all faced the walls and were side-

ways to the teacher's desk. A sly pupil could eat an apple or anything else without being easily found out.

A very fine new two-roomed brick building was erected that first summer, so that we had fine accommodation for the second year and an assistant for the junior pupils. One of our pupils, Miss Jessie Moir, during the second summer prepared her work for a third-class certificate and passed successfully. Those were the days when County teachers' certificates were issued as well as Normal School certificates.

According to the regulations a teacher was required to teach three years on his third-class certificate before writing on his second. Teachers who were successful in their work were, however, sometimes allowed to write sooner. We

were permitted to write for our second after a year and a half's experience. We succeeded in passing and in securing a grade A standing. We stood second in the County. This was in the summer of 1875. We continued the remainder of that year teaching in No. 10 Hay.

In January 1876 we returned to school and attended Hamilton Collegiate Institute. It was one of the best schools of the kind at that time in the province of Ontario. Mr. George Dickson was principal and Mr. W. H. Ballard was teacher of Mathematics. Mr. Ballard had attained a great reputation in preparing students for Matriculation in Honor Mathematics. He was himself a Gold Medallist of Toronto University in this subject. This was our chief reason for going to Hamilton. There were lots of other

first-class High Schools nearer home, but none of them had the reputation of Hamilton in Mathematics. We found him entirely satisfactory as a teacher. He sat down one day along side of us in the classroom and showed us the application of a principle in Binomial Theorem which enabled us to solve two problems on the problem paper without any difficulty and which were set for the Toronto Matriculation examination. It was held a few weeks afterwards and I secured the second scholarship of one hundred dollars in Mathematics. He seemed to know the work so perfectly that he was able to proceed without hesitation with all the work he did in the classroom.

Owing to the great trouble we had with our eyes, we were compelled to return to

teaching again for two years and nine months. We had the good fortune through the school inspector for South Huron--Mr. J. R. Miller--to secure a very fine school nine miles from Goderich. It was No. 3 Colborne. It was better known as the "young school". It was a two-roomed school, so that we had an assistant and we had a boarding place nearby where we were able to go home for a hot dinner. We attended the Smith's Hill Presbyterian Church and taught the Bible Class there, so that we got acquainted with the Church people of the community at the very commencement of our work in Colborne.

Rev. Samuel Pritchard was the minister. He preached to two congregations--Smith's Hill and Manchester. No. 3 Colborne

was situated mid-way between them. He was a fine minister and had large congregations from the very commencement of his work. He was called in the beginning of 1878. He and his wife were very popular with the people and were much beloved by them.

We had a very happy time teaching in No. 3. We had a clever lot of pupils and it was not difficult to keep order. They had had a number of efficient teachers immediately preceding us. The pupils came to school to work and to obey orders.

At the close of our work there, we returned to Toronto University to take our first year in the Arts course. We continued our studies in Mathematics and secured first-class honors in the spring of 1881. Our eyes were still giving us trouble and we again returned to teach-

ing. In December, 1881, we began work in No. 1 Colborne, the school adjoining No. 3. We continued our work there until the end of 1883. On account of our eyes we abandoned all idea of completing our University course.

CHAPTER 111

Pioneering in Southern Manitoba.

In the Spring of 1884 we went to Southern Manitoba and settled on a very fine farm forty miles from a railway. It was expected that the German branch line of the C.P.R. would be extended to within two miles of the farm at a very early date. My younger brother, Henry, accompanied me. We took with us a fine outfit of horses and ploughs and other things that pioneers needed to start farming with on the frontier. We built a fine house and put up stabling that summer, and before winter set in, we were well prepared with buildings and feed for the stock and had done enough of breaking and back-setting during the summer to be able to look forward with high hopes to a fine crop in 1885. There was abundance of firewood

within a few miles of our home, a load of which could be gotten anytime in half a day. We succeeded in getting abundance of good water at a depth of 13 feet. We returned to Ontario and were married that first winter to a very fine looking and clever school teacher, Miss Agnes Stewart, whom we had known from childhood; so the future looked very bright to us when we returned to our home in February, 1885.

My wife brought an organ with her and we started a Sunday School the summer of that year, in our own house. We had about two dozen pupils from the surrounding homes. Many of them had never been to Sunday School before. We had three classes. My wife taught the Primary class, my brother taught the Intermediate class and we had the pleasure of teaching the

Bible Class. The pupils often remained after the school hour to practise hymns for the following Sunday. They greatly enjoyed this and most of them at the close of the summer were quite familiar with many of the hymns that Sunday School scholars learn to sing. We taught them about God and His law and Christ and Salvation from sin through Him. That Sunday School was a great blessing to that community in those early days. We continued the school the following summer. Rev. John Cairns was our missionary, with head-quarters at Glenora. He and his family lived in a log manse two miles north of Rock Lake. He had six preaching places which he supplied fortnightly. Three Elders were elected in the fall of 1884, Mr. R. S. Thomson of Glenora, Mr. Jas. Wilson of Mrs. Craig's

station and we were elected for the third. We attended services at Mr. Wm. Stark's. All six services were conducted in private homes for the first two or three summers. Public schools were also organized here and there in the municipality of Argyle, so that religion and education were established at almost the very commencement of our farming operations. Rev. Cairns was the Presbyterian minister. Rev. Jas. Hoskins conducted the first Methodist Mission which he organized in 1864. A little later Rev. Wm. Walton organized an Anglican Mission. Rev. Dr. James Robertson, the superintendent of the Presbyterian missions for Western Canada, visited us occasionally and fired our imaginations with the great future of the Church if the pioneers would do their duty.

The Canadian Parliament of the Dominion let the contract for the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific in 1881. The Government gave the Railway a larger grant of money and also grants of land and other inducements to get them to make the huge expenditures necessary to complete the line. They were to have it finished in ten years. They completed it in the autumn of 1885. The Government further agreed to exempt them from taxation for twenty years and gave them a monopoly of all railway construction in Western Canada. The Company therefore could delay the building of branch lines indefinitely. This left the whole of Southern Manitoba at the mercy of the Railway Company. They, however, built two branch lines, each one hundred miles

in length in 1882, the one to Carman and the other to Manitou. The pioneers farther west in the Southern part of the Province began to agitate for the extensions of these two lines. Letters to the press were written and public meetings were held and deputations waited on the railway officials from time to time. In those days we did our share of work to try to hurry up the further extension of these two branch lines. We did our best to get one of these lines extended through the municipality of Argyle. Argyle was a large municipality, north of Rock Lake, twenty-four miles long from East to West, and eighteen miles wide from North to South. But we were deeply disappointed when the Manitou branch was extended in 1885 south of Rock Lake and left us twenty

miles from a railway line. The Carman branch was extended in 1886 north of Tiger Hills through Township No. 7 and left us still about eighteen or twenty miles distant from a railway.

The only hope of us getting better railway facilities was in breaking the C.P.R. monopoly and in inducing some other railway company from the United States to build a line to accommodate our district. Other parts of the province were equally in need of railway lines more conveniently located for them.

The pioneers turned to the Provincial Government of which the Hon. John Norquay was Premier, for relief, in hopes that through it, the Dominion Government, by making a new contract with the Railway Company, could induce them to give up their monopoly. At last about

1888 the Dominion Government made a fresh contract with the Company in which they agreed to give up this valuable right, in consideration of which the Government paid them a further additional liberal grant. Shortly after this Hon. John Norquay's Government was defeated and the Hon. T. W. Greenway became Premier in his place. The pioneers in our district still urged better railway facilities and the Greenway Government finally contracted with the Northern Pacific Railway Company for the construction of a line from Morris to Brandon. This was built south of Tiger Hills in Ranges five in 1889, to the great joy of the homesteaders in our part of the province. It was built right through the heart of the municipality, and had four towns of Greenway, Baldur, Belmont and Hilton established within its borders.

CHAPTER IV

Municipal Experiences.

Through our active interest in better railway facilities, we were elected to the position of Reeve of the municipality of Argyle and made a Justice of the Peace at the same time. In addition, therefore, to helping to develop the agricultural resources of the district, we became acquainted with Municipal Law and also Criminal Law.

We learned some important lessons as a municipal officer which was of great value to us through life. Throughout our municipal experience we did our best to induce the Council to practise economy and to raise, year by year, enough money in taxes to pay for improvements

on roads and bridges and to provide, also, the necessary money to keep the public schools in operation. We levied as low a rate as possible to raise the money required and, at the same time, pressed for the collection of taxes as firmly and graciously as we could. We also learned early in our municipal career that it was the privilege of an elector to criticize the acts of a public officer and that, if possible, he should profit by the criticisms and not feel hurt. In our administration of Criminal Law, in relation to the punishing of law-breakers, we learned to temper justice with mercy, and if possible to get the law-breakers to mend their ways.

All these experiences were of great value in the years that were to follow.

CHAPTER V

We Again Became a Student.

In the autumn of 1893 Rev. Dr. Jas. Robertson made another of his visits to one of our nearby mission fields and we had the joy of entertaining him on the Sunday night after his day's work was done. He suggested that we ought to devote the rest of our life to preaching the gospel of Salvation to our fellow Canadians in Western Canada. As a result of this conversation and also because my wife was tired of living on the farm, we completed our University course in Manitoba University and took a full three years' course in Theology in Manitoba College. We were very pleased to find that we still had memory to acquire and retain knowledge

and were able to graduate in Arts with a medal in 1895 and we also graduated in Theology with first-class honors and a scholarship in Hebrew in the fall of 1897. The Theological classes in Manitoba College were conducted during the summer in those days in order that the students might supply mission fields during the winters that were vacated by students² from eastern Theological Colleges each autumn.

The only professors in Theology at that time in Manitoba were Rev. Dr. J.M. King, the principal, and Rev. Dr. A.B. Beird. They were assisted in their work while we were there in 1895, 1896 and 1897 by Rev. Dr. Jas. Ross of Montreal; Rev. Dr. John Scrimger of Montreal; Rev. Dr. Wm. McLaren of Knox College, Toronto; Rev. Dr. Peter Wright of Portage la Prairie;

Rev. Dr. Francis R. Beattie of Louisville, Kentucky and also by Rev. Dr. Jas. Orr and Rev. Dr. Geo. Adam Smith from Scotland. In addition to these we had a teacher of Elocution from Toronto whose name we have forgotten. Dr. King was one of the greatest teachers in Canada at that time. Students who listened with attention could not fail to understand clearly what he was explaining. Dr. Baird taught Church history. He was a fine teacher and we never saw him angry all the time we were in College. All the professors who came to assist were specialists in their departments and we greatly enjoyed their lectures. It was a great privilege to be instructed by so many able teachers and they were, in addition, ideal Christian men.

CHAPTER VI

Called to Virden, Manitoba.

There were a number of important charges vacant in Manitoba during the autumn of 1897, among them Virden. To this important congregation we were called and were ordained and inducted on November 24 of that year. It was a large and well-organized congregation on the main line of C.P.R. and not far from the Western Boundary of the province. Virden was a thriving town when we began our work there and during the next fourteen years it doubled in population. The congregation also doubled its membership and during that time they cleared off the mortgage debt on the church and remodelled and brick veneered it. They also built a fine two-storey brick manse. When we

resigned in the fall of 1911 to accept the position of Superintendent of Missions of Southern Saskatchewan, Virden was one of the strongest charges of the Province, outside of the three cities of Winnipeg, Brandon and Portage la Prairie.

When we began our work of preaching the gospel, we really commenced our life work in earnest. From the very commencement of our ministry, we constantly kept in mind that it was our chief task to present Christ, the eternal Son of God as man's Saviour from sin, and that all must believe in Him as such, before they could claim from God that full free pardon which He has promised in His Word. We taught the people that they must repent of their sins and confess them to God, that they must ask pardon from

Him upon the ground of their faith in Christ, who paid the penalty of their sins by His death upon the Cross. We taught that Christ died for our sins and that His death was an atonement for them. We taught that Christ rose again from the dead the third day and afterwards ascended again to Heaven where He was before with God the Father, and that He would come again to judge the world. We taught that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, came to the earth to carry on the work of Christ after He ascended into Heaven. We taught that it is the Holy Spirit that gives to all believers the new heart (the new disposition) and all needed help to do His will and keep His commandments.

We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ. We are not saved by good works, we are saved for

good works. We must strive day by day to be like Christ in character. We must continually do Christlike acts to our fellowmen. Christ summed up the whole duty of man, when He said to the Scribe, "The first of all the commandments is, Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord, and thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength." This is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There are none other commandments greater than these".

We did a great deal of our work in the pulpit by teaching the people the contents of God's Word by continued series of sermons, Sunday after Sunday. We had an important ser-

ies on the ethic of Jesus by which the people got a deeper insight into the character of -Jesus, and His aims in teaching them. He showed them the lives they should live and the motives that should guide them in doing the will of God and in helping their fellowmen to do likewise. We had a series on the parables of Jesus. We taught them in detail the events that took place in the "Upper Room in Jerusalem, in the garden of Gethsemane and at the Trial. We taught them the seven words Christ spoke on the Cross and the particulars of His burial and resurrection and ascension.

We had another series on the acts of the Apostles. The series on Romans was one of the most instructive we preached. We did our best to teach the people justification by faith."

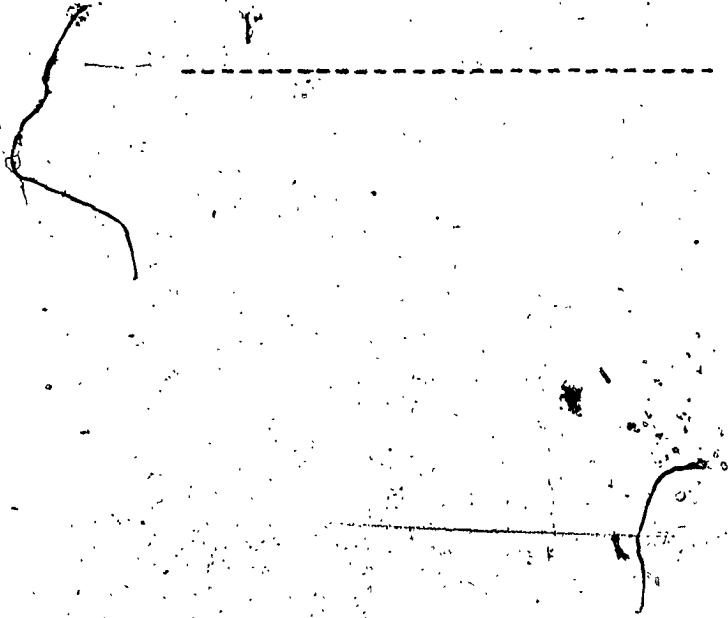
That the ground of our forgiveness is the great fact that Christ paid the penalty of our sins by His death upon the Cross, and that we are saved by faith in Him and forgiven by God because our sins are adequately atoned for by the sufferings of Christ upon the Cross and also because of God's great love for us. We had another series on Paul's letter to the Ephesians. This is a great letter. The study of it proved a great blessing to ourselves. We had a most instructive series on Hebrews and another on the first Epistle of John. We also preached from time to time on the most outstanding texts we could find in God's Word.

We taught the contents of the Old Testament in the same way as we presented the New Testament by series. We had a very instructive series on Genesis and another on "Out of

Egypt into Canaan". We had a very helpful series on the leading characters of the Old Testament--Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel and others. We taught the contents of the books of Job, Ecclesiastes, Psalms and the Minor Prophets in the same way. We had another important series, on the Old Testament, on the teachings of Isaiah on the coming of Christ, the suffering servant to the earth.

The most wonderful Sunday School work we did was in teaching a Bible Class for six months on the contents of John's Gospel. Almost the whole class united with the Church on profession of faith. It is still true that John's Gospel will do what he wrote it for--John 20.31--

"But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His Name". During the last three years of our ministry in Virden fifty-six united with the Church upon profession of feith and most of them were Sundry School scholars.



CHAPTER VII

Appointed Superintendent of Missions
of Southern Saskatchewan.

We began our work as Superintendent of Missions on October 23, 1911 and continued this work until June 30, 1928.

We were Superintendent of Missions of the Presbyterian Church from October 23, 1911, until the union of the Presbyterian Methodist and Congregational Churches, June 10, 1925, and then Superintendent of the Missions of the United Church of Canada for Southern Saskatchewan from June 10, 1925 until June 30, 1928, at which time we retired from our position.

Those were exceedingly busy years. We travelled during that period four hundred thousand miles. It was our special task to care for

the aid-relieving mission fields, until they reached self-support and also, with the help of the Presbyteries to establish new mission fields in districts where there were no services by any church.

Southern Saskatchewan extended across the Southern end of the Province from Manitoba to Alberta, from East to West, a distance of 391 miles and from North to South a distance of 140 miles. It contained the four cities of Regina, the capital of the Province, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, and Weyburn.

When we began our work, there were 46 self-supporting charges, 15 augmented charges and 107 mission fields in this territory. While Superintendent of Missions of the Presbyterian Church, 51 augmented charges and mission fields attained

the status of self-support, 33 more advanced from aid-receiving student mission fields to aid-receiving ordained fields.

In addition to this, 26 other fields through co-operation with the Methodist Church and the Independent Union Church ceased to be aid-receiving. When union was consummated with the Methodists and Congregationalists in 1925 there was only one aid-receiving field where the Methodists were also at work and receiving a home-mission grant from the funds of the Presbyterian Church. Now the overlapping of the work between the Methodists and Presbyterians in aid-receiving fields in Southern Saskatchewan was entirely eliminated with this single exception, when Union took place in 1925.

It is very gratifying to note, too, that

the Presbyterian Church in 1924, from all classes of fields in Southern Saskatchewan, paid to the missionary budget \$50,278.91.

During the seventeen years that negotiations for union were in progress, a very earnest effort was made to eliminate overlapping in all classes of fields. There were no congregations of the Congregational Church in Southern Saskatchewan. Elimination was carried out by three organizations of the two churches:

(1) The co-operating committees of the two churches,

(2) Directly by the Presbyteries and District meetings,

(3) By a special committee of four, appointed by Synod and Conference to work in conjunction with Presbyteries and District meetings. This

third organization did its work among the weaker self-supporting congregations where the two denominations were at work, but where they were finding it difficult to pay the salaries of the two ministers and where they were considering the advisability of establishing independent unions.

In 1925 at the time of the consummation of union (outside of the four cities in Southern Saskatchewan) there were only 17 places where both denominations were at work. This statement includes self-supporting fields outside of the four cities.

The progress made in the erection of churches and manses from 1911 to 1924 was most encouraging. One hundred and fourteen churches and 49 manses were built during that time. The erection of these additional manses aided greatly in increasing the number of ordained ministers and

missionaries, and thus furnishing a greater number of fields with supply during the whole year.

About forty summer students came every spring to supply Presbyterian fields that had been vacant for the winter. Most of them did excellent work, but retired again to their colleges in the autumns to pursue their studies. This left their fields vacant again for the winter. We were kept busy each summer visiting as many of these fields as possible and we usually administered the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper in them.

We also had a conference with the congregations at the close of the services and they frequently agreed to a reduction of the Home Mission grants.

During the three years we were super-

intendent of Missions for the United Church of Canada we found the congregations and ministers, that had been Methodist, wholehearted and loyal. The United Church had in 1925, in Southern Saskatchewan, in all, 278 fields of which 127 were aid-receiving. There were at that time 183 ordained ministers in charge of these fields. The rest of the fields were supplied by catechists and students.

The United Church contributed to the missionary and maintenance fund in 1928, \$131,633.16. The progress made by the aid-receiving fields of the ten Presbyteries in Southern Saskatchewan of the United Church, from 1925 to 1928, was that nine fields advanced to self-support. Nine new fields were organized and eleven additional churches were added. The

number of manses were increased by ten in aid-receiving fields. In addition to these, eleven churches were built in self-supporting fields and three manses erected.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on us by Manitoba College in spring of 1912.

CHAPTER VIII

Living in Retirement.

Upon retiring from our office at mid-summer in 1928, my wife and I immediately started on a trip to Europe which we enjoyed greatly. We were absent from Regina three and one-half months and travelled about 14,000 miles. Upon returning home, we immediately set to work to write the history of Missions of Southern Saskatchewan from 1911 to 1928. The book contains 277 pages. There were 1,000 copies in the issue. We are pleased to say the whole issue has been placed and three-quarters of them in Southern Saskatchewan. Anyone wishing to learn the story of the laying of the foundation of the Church during this period will find it an exceedingly clear and concise story of its progress. It will con-

tinue to be a very valuable book of reference. The names of most of the ministers and missionaries, together with the names of the Presbytery Elders that were at work in those days are given. There are two valuable maps in the book, the one showing the extent of the work in 1911 of the Presbyterian Church, and the other the work of the United Church in 1928. There are 15 chapters in the first part of the book and 6 in the second part. We spent several months on its preparation and distribution.

We kept on working after we finished this history. We did a very interesting piece of work for the Baldur Gazette. We wrote up the story of our stay in Argyle, Southern Manitoba, from 1884 to 1894. There are several very interesting chapters in it dealing with matters of

great local interest to the old-timers and their friends.

We wrote an interesting chapter on the church life of the municipality, another on the municipal life of Argyle, a third on the political elections of both the Province and the Dominion in Argyle during those ten years, a fourth telling of the railway extensions in Argyle during the same period and a fifth on the crop conditions.

We also spent some time writing the biography of Mr. John Strang, our only son, who died of flu in 1920.

During the winter of 1932 we wrote a booklet of seventy-eight pages of the life of Christ arranged chronologically. The four evangelists record 178 events of His earthly career.

We made an earnest effort to set them down in the order of their occurrence. The story, after it was completed, was so interesting to us and so admirably arranged that we decided to have 300 copies of it multigraphed. We have received from our friends many expressions of hearty appreciation of its merits. We committed to memory very many of the sayings of Christ recorded in the Book. It was a great joy to us in the preparation to become better acquainted with the earthly life and sayings of our Lord.

More than four years have gone by since we retired and we have had many happy hours reading and thinking. Last winter we read the histories of ancient Greece and Rome. How clever many of those Greeks and Romans were. What a tragedy that they did not also learn unity and loyalty.

together with unselfishness of conduct. If Greece had been wise, her language and literature might have been spoken and read everywhere in the world. When Greece failed, Rome which followed after her, might, with her love of law, have done what Greece failed to do. Slavery was a great blot on the civilization of both countries. We have spent considerable time also in reading the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. It is a wonderful Book and we believe more firmly than ever that Christ, who is revealed in it, is the divine Son of God, the Saviour of the World.

This is January, 1933, and the great business men and statesmen of the world have, so far, failed to find a solution of the present depression with its tens of millions of people

out of employment. They are not all agreed on its causes, nor yet are they agreed on the course to be pursued to bring it to an end.

We had two children, John Argyle, born in October 1888, and Margaret Helen born in February 1891. John Argyle was a graduate in Arts of Manitoba University, and a graduate in Law in Saskatchewan. After graduating in Law he practised his profession, first in Regina for one year, and then in Moosomin until the time of his death in February, 1920. He was married in 1917 to Miss Amy L. Craig, a Virden school friend. They had one child, Joan Lillian, who is now fourteen years of age. She is residing in Ponoka, Alberta with her mother, and is attending the High School there.

Margaret Helen is a graduate in Arts of Saskatchewan University and has her M.A. degree

from Yale University. She was married in 1919 to Mr. Clarence W. Rife. They spent the first three years of their married life in New Haven while Mr. Rife took his Ph.D. course in Yale in History. They went from there to St. Paul, Minnesota in 1922, where he secured the position of Professor of History in Hamline University. He still occupies this position.

They have two children, Agnes Margaret born in February, 1924, and Isabel Helen born in February, 1933. Agnes is now in grade four in her Public School course and has an unusually fine vocabulary for a girl of nine and which she is able to use with great fluency.
